

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #11
June 19, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE:

The World Health Organization updated the count of confirmed human cases of H5N1 influenza to 226 (up by 1 case from last week). Of these cases, 129 cases have died (57.1%). The only country experiencing additional human disease this week was China, which has now reported 19 cases with 12 deaths. The latest case from China involved a truck driver. His exact point of exposure to the virus is not certain at this time, but he did visit local markets where live poultry are sold prior to the onset of his respiratory illness.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for June 28th from 0900-1300 at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- Dr. Kaplowitz and Steve Harrison provided a Pandemic Influenza planning and October “Fowl Play” exercise update to members of the Commonwealth Preparedness working Group on June 15th.
- An exercise planning conference involving key stakeholders was conducted on June 12 in Fairfax. This conference focused on finalizing objectives, the exercise development schedule, and assigning milestones.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

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| Far SW Region | July 20 |
| Near SW Region | August 22 |
| Lord Fairfax | June 22 |
| Eastern Shore | August 8 |
| Fairfax | May 26 |
| Rappahannock-Rapidan | June 21 |
| Central Shenandoah | June 30 |
| Middle Peninsula | August 1 |
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).
- Medical Reserve Corps throughout the Commonwealth continue their planning efforts with regard to an influenza pandemic. Please refer to the attached Medical Reserve Corp Activity Report for further information.

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- Northern Virginia Pandemic Flu Communications Activities
 - Distributed press advisory to Culpeper regional media promoting their June 21 summit.
 - Participated in strategy planning meeting at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for the statewide October SNS/Pandemic flu exercise.
 - Presented pandemic flu display information (Q and A) at Electronic Data Systems (EDS) in Herndon June 14.
- Eastern Virginia Pandemic Flu Communications Activities
 - Delivered the pandemic flu video to the Norfolk City Channel. Video will begin to air as early as next week.
- Central Virginia Pandemic Flu Communications Activities
 - Capital One Expo-Set up pandemic flu and EPR booth; scheduled Dr. Nelson to hold workshops.
 - Spoke to elementary students about pandemic flu.
 - Scheduled Pandemic flu luncheon and arranged other details for hospital public relations staff luncheon scheduled for June 30.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Arlington**
 - Arlington Health Director and Planner discussed community containment issues at the VDEM Region 7 Seminar on Pandemic Influenza
 - Arlington Health Department held a multi-agency training/exercise to validate the work being done on the County Quarantine and Isolation Annex.
- **Chesterfield**
 - On June 16, staff met with the Governmental Taskforce for the city of Colonial Heights, where we presented information on pandemic influenza and assisted in brainstorming strategies with the task force members. District employees in attendance included the district director, district nurse manager, district epidemiologist, nurse supervisor and nurse senior for Colonial Heights, and district planner.
- **Crater**
 - The director, nursing manager, planner and epidemiologist presented information on avian pandemic influenza and local planning issues to local governmental representatives from the City of Emporia and the County of Greenville, the CEO and CNO of Southern Virginia Regional Medical Center, and the chief of the hospital's medical staff. The City and County are in the process of creating local emergency planning committees, which will include representation from the health department and the hospital.
 - The District Planner met with the emergency coordinator for Southside Regional Medical Center to discuss strategies for enhancing collaborative emergency planning.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - CPHD Epidemiologist and Planner participated in the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit planning meeting with representatives from five (5) local public health agencies from Virginia and Tennessee. The Summit is scheduled for July 20, 2006 at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

- CPHD Planner distributed 135 Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit invitations to the local district government officials, state agencies, businesses, schools, courts, medical providers, first responders, veterinarians, faith-based organizations, community service boards and law enforcement.
- CPHD Planner drafted the pandemic influenza supplemental gap analysis that describes how the CPHD plans to fill the identified gaps.
- CPHD Planner is collaborating with the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. to identify the number of first responders and family members for developing a district pharmaceutical cache in the event of a pandemic influenza, terrorist attack, or disease outbreak.
- CPHD Planner communicated daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
- CPHD Planner met with the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center to discuss logistics for the pandemic influenza summit.
- **Henrico**
 - District Planner and Epidemiologist conducted CME training on Pandemic Flu for medical staff at Henrico Doctors' Hospital Parham campus
 - District Epidemiologist sent weekly Avian flu update to Hospital ICPs and Richmond International Airport (RIC).
 - District Planner hosted a meeting of Central Region Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinators to discuss strategies for regionalizing the MRC programs in each district.
 - District Planner conducted personal and family preparedness training for Henrico MRC volunteers.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Lenowisco District Director and Epidemiologist met with Lee County School system superintendent and four administrative staff to discuss emergency planning activities, and specifically pandemic influenza response. The county has employed several more school nurses although there is not yet one for every school in the county, and administration wishes to have Health dept staff meet with the school nurses and principals to discuss influenza and communicable disease surveillance, based on a model that the health district has used with another school district for several years. Additional planning activities and updating dispensing site drills were also planned.
 - The Lenowisco Health District Planner participated in a planning session for the far SW Pan flu summit. Invitations to the summit were mailed and/or faxed to 250+ professionals, local government officials, and other key participants. The summit is scheduled in July.
 - District Epi assisted university staff at UVa-Wise in planning for their own staff education related to pandemic influenza preparedness.
 - District Epi contacted Wise County School Nurse Coordinator regarding the pan flu summit.
 - Contacted Clinch River Health Services, a CHC, regarding the pandemic influenza summit.
- **Loudoun**
 - CAO presented state of local emergency preparedness with highlights on pandemic flu planning to Town of Purcellville.
 - Fire/Rescue, Schools, and County Administration workgroups proceeding with non-health portions of plan.

- Confirmed 9 dates and places (Government Center, Schools, George Washington University NoVa Campus) for pandemic flu seminars for medical, business, government, first responders, and veterinarians; and reserved meeting rooms.
- Set date of August 10th for general public pandemic flu summit and reserved meeting room.
- Completed and updated Target Audience listing for seminars.
- Created promotional flyers for seminars and summit and met with County public affairs staff to gain their assistance in advertising the events.
- Ordered items for personal "Infection Control Tool Kits" to be given to volunteer patients in the upcoming October 21 Pandemic Flu Point of Dispensing exercise.
- Compiled list of Loudoun County veterinarians and secured list of licensed food establishments in the County to use in issuing invitations to the seminars.
- Developed Community Preparedness Tool brochure to be printed and distributed at seminars and October exercise.
- Developed pre-seminar registration form and post-seminar request for more information form.
- Compiled survey results from previous medical seminar as well as online responses in Excel spreadsheet and verified all contact information contained therein.
- Created spreadsheet of all medical professionals who have requested individual office visits, to be conducted later this summer
- Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):
 - Conducted liaison activity meeting with Prince William County Health Department interim replacement POC for their emergency planner to provide an overview of the exercise and to discuss the projected role of Prince William County Health Department staff in the exercise.
 - Updated the Master Responsibility Task List for the planning team.
- Commonwealth/NCR SNS-PanFlu Exercise ("Fowl Play"):
 - Met with pertinent law enforcement personnel (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Special Operations) for an update discussion of SNS pick up plans at the NoVA warehouse.
 - Briefed part time summer college intern who will be assisting the Health Educator in implementing seminars.
 - Developed health department pandemic flu ad to be placed in ValPak for 2 months.
- **Peninsula**
 - Conducted a Pandemic influenza TTX for the northern end of the district. Provided a brief overview of pandemic influenza, and a time scaled TTX scoped to the locality. Participants included representatives from Fire/EMS/Emergency Management for James City County and Williamsburg. Private sector employers, the chamber of commerce and private health care providers were represented as well. PanFlu pamphlets and offers for additional briefings/support were made.
 - District Planner reviewed the pandemic flu plan for one of the three CSBs affiliated with the health district.
- **Piedmont**
 - The first full meeting of the Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee for Prince Edward Schools was conducted. The planning group included the school superintendent, all school nurses, all principals and assistant principals, the Hampden-Sydney College medical facility director, an extension service agent, and the director of instruction.

- **Pittsylvania-Danville**

- 17 May 2006: Meeting of the Business Subcommittee of the District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee. Agenda items included potential issues related to unionized employees; the Corning Corporation corporate preparedness plan and international tracking system for employees; and guides for businesses to customize for assisting employees with their individual and family preparedness.
- 22 May 2006: Meeting of the School Subcommittee of the District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee. Agenda items included stress management during pandemics and the Pittsylvania County School System planning document.
- 30 May – 3 June 2006: District Epidemiologist Participation in the Annual Critical Incident Stress Management Training. Knowledge and skills acquired during the training would be used during debriefing of Health Department staff following exercises, drills and actual occurrences such as those associated with pandemic influenza.
- 9 June 2006: District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee Meeting. The District Epidemiologist and Planner co-chaired the meeting, which presented opportunities for reports from subcommittee representatives in the areas of Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS, Local Government, Medical/Mental Health and Schools. A global Influenza update was presented.
- 14 June 2006: District Planner and Epidemiologist joint presentation to 55 Pittsylvania County employees. Information was presented regarding seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza as well as preparedness for a pandemic. The VDH pandemic influenza video was also shown.
- A member of the public has been recruited to head outreach to religious organizations regarding pandemic influenza issues.
- The District is pleased to report that we have selected a staff member to do full time community education regarding pandemic influenza.
- The District has decided to not to hold a formal pandemic influenza summit.

- **Portsmouth**

- The District Planner provided a brief overview of issues related to Pandemic Flu to the Portsmouth Safe Schools Initiative. The overview served to identify multiple areas of school services that would be affected by Pandemic Flu. The meeting also served to identify those responsible for those areas and ensure they are engaged in planning efforts.

- **Prince William**

- Conducted a community pandemic informational meeting 6/8/06.
- Conducted a mass fatality meeting with Funeral Directors on 6/16/06.
- Completed “Personal Preparedness” pamphlet; ready for printing, will be mailed to households throughout the community.
- Conducting outreach to grocery stores to encourage cleaning of cart handles by providing wipes to patrons when picking up carts.
- Discussing development, negotiation of MOUs with grocery stores to accommodate home delivery for people on isolation or quarantine.

- **Roanoke/Alleghany**

- Interviewed 3 candidates for health educator position, one of whom appeared well suited for job, but who is expected to decline since funding is only assured through August 2006. If receipt of additional funding does not occur, the position will remain unfilled and have to be re-advertised.
- Coordination efforts for panflu meeting with local businesses through LEPC ongoing.

- **Southside**
 - Planner will meet with Brunswick County Administrator on June 27 to discuss preparing county for a pandemic.
 - Will provide Pandemic Influenza Presentation at a Disaster Preparedness meeting in Brunswick County on July 11.
 - Pan Flu funded Administrative Assistant will start next Tuesday.
- **West Piedmont**
 - District Management Team attended the VDH Leadership Conference in Richmond. All disciplines received an introduction to VDH Training Business Plan, which featured aspects that can be used in the case of an influenza pandemic. District Director attended a workshop, entitled Avian Influenza Update, presented by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
 - District Epidemiologist provided education and materials to member of Patrick County Book Club. The book club will be meeting next week and asked for information that they can share with their members and families. Pandemic Flu information and the CDC's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: A Guide for Individuals and Families were given to the book club. A copy of the Pandemic Flu DVD was also provided.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Health Director and Emergency Planner have scheduled a Panflu presentation for the Medical Staff of Southampton Memorial Hospital on June 27 at 6pm.
 - Pandemic DVD/VHS's were distributed to 15 libraries and Bookmobiles throughout Western Tidewater Health District.
 - Met with the Director of Communications for the City of Suffolk and arranged for the VDH Pandemic Flu DVD to be aired on the Suffolk public channel (8) for public broadcast beginning June 26, 2006.
 - The Emergency Planner is scheduled as the guest speaker at the next Suffolk LEPC meeting on June 28, topic Pandemic Influenza and It's Impact on the City of Suffolk.
 - Continue planning Panflu Seminar for the Adult/Residential Facilities.
 - Preparing for Emergencies, Terrorism and Disasters, a Handbook for Your Family, and "Z-Cards" (English and Spanish) and Hurricane Preparedness pamphlets were distributed to 15 libraries and Bookmobiles throughout Western Tidewater Health District.
 - Began networking with the Virginia Tech Extension Service, Animal Control, and vets to initiate plans for a Pet Evacuation sites for Western Tidewater.
 - Met with the Suffolk Emergency Coordinator to discuss, at length, plans for pet evacuation sites.
 - Represented the Region at the Virginia & North Carolina Hurricane Evacuation Coordination Meeting in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina on June 15, 2006.

Medical Reserve Corp Activity Report

- Rappahannock Rapidan MRC:
 - Program Coordinator and Emergency Planner are preparing for the District-wide Pandemic Flu Summit on June 21st. All RRMRC volunteers, along with health, government, business and church leaders have been invited.
 - MRC Pandemic Flu training is scheduled for August 23 followed by an isolation and quarantine training Sept. 13.
 - Information on Pan Flu and Preparation handed out and discussed at all community health fairs.
 - RRMRC will hold family and personal preparedness training on July 22 for RRMRC volunteers.
- Rappahannock MRC:
 - "Indicators of an Outbreak" training was offered to RMRC volunteers on June 1st.
 - A Pandemic Flu Working Group Volunteer Subcommittee is being formed to assist the Rappahannock Area Health District as part of their Pandemic Flu preparedness.
- Fairfax MRC:
 - Pandemic influenza planning includes the use of MRC volunteers to assist communicable disease nurses with making daily telephone contact with individuals put in isolation or quarantine by the Health Department during a pandemic.
 - MRC volunteers may be utilized to assist both the Health Department and the Department of Family Services in the provision of essential needs (food, medicine, baby formula) of those isolated and/or quarantined. However, the provision of essential needs would not be done through direct contact with sick or exposed individuals, rather by dropping off of essential items to the residence. This option is being discussed during MRC trainings on roles an MRC volunteer may fill.
 - Specific training for MRCs related to pan flu may follow but has not been developed as of yet.
- UVA MRC:
 - Actively participating in the Thomas Jefferson Area Health District planning committee for Pandemic Flu, serving on 4 of the 6 subcommittees.
 - Also working with area nurses and other community partners to create a community education outreach program to begin in the fall.
- Alexandria MRC:
 - MRC members are actively participating on a number of the City of Alexandria's pandemic flu topical working groups such as Quarantine and Isolation, Fatality Management, Medical Surge, and Communicating with the Public.
- Roanoke Valley MRC:
 - MRC is currently communicating with all local Emergency Managers about their plans and how volunteers will interface.
 - MRC is in the process of developing protocols for Special Needs shelters in the event of overflow at hospitals.